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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/796,138

Applicant(s)

OKUOKA ET AL.

Examiner

CHAD DICKERSON

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/22/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The Amendment to the claims has necessitated a new ground(s) of rejection. The Examiner would like to state briefly that the reference of Nakagiri and Nishikawa are still being applied to the claims below. However, the Examiner added the reference of Kato '865 to cure any deficiencies of Nakagiri and Nishikawa regarding the new claim features.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-8 and 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagiri '440 (USP 6965440) in view of Nishikawa '046 (USP 6934046) and Kato (US Pub No 2004/0075865).

Re claim 1: Nakagiri '440 discloses an image processing apparatus comprising:

a memory that stores a job including image data output from an image processing terminal and an image processing setting (i.e. in Nakagiri '440, there are a plurality of devices that store information. The spooler (302) is used to acquire the processing setups associated with the print data, considered as the image data, and stores this information together as a setup file for each job in a spool file (303). The spool file is considered the memory since this save both types of information. The image data and processing setup information can be stored in a memory in the host computer, considered as the image processing terminal, and this information can also be output from the host computer and transmitted to the printer (1500); see figs. 1-3; col. 3, lines 48-67, col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67 and col. 6, lines 1-67);

an image processing component that performs predetermined image processing to the job stored in the memory (i.e. both the spooler and despooler perform image processing to the job stored in the spool file (303). The spooler (302) is used to convert print commands into intermediate codes and output these codes to be stored in a spool file (303). The despooler is used to process the PDFs of the intermediate codes included in the spool file (303), which also includes the processing setup information, and outputs this information to a graphic engine for further processing. These are examples of the components in the host computer that are used to perform image

processing to the job stored in the spool file when the print data along with the setup information is entered into the system. The function of performing predetermined image processing is performed by the spooler, which is used to perform the predetermined function of interpreting the received print command into intermediate codes and outputting this information to a spool file; see figs. 1-3; col. 3, lines 48-67, col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67 and col. 6, lines 1-67);

a job connection component that sets connection information for connecting plural jobs and a print setting condition of a connected job when the jobs stored in the memory are selected and generation of the connected job is instructed (i.e. in the system, the user can designate to combine a plurality of print jobs to execute them as a single print job on the window of the spool file manager. This is shown in figures 9, 16 and 18. The spool file manager can be considered as the job connection component since it sets the information for combining, or connecting, a plurality of jobs to one combined job name to be executed as a single job. When viewing figure 18, the figure illustrates the combine setup window, which also performs the latter feature of the job connection component, having the function of being able to set the processing setups of the combined jobs stored in the spool file that are selected and the creation of the combined job that has been instructed through the spool file manager; see figs. 9, 16-18; col. 8, lines 20-67 and col. 9, lines 1-67); and

a print process execution component that executes a print process of the connected job based on the connection information and the print setting condition set by the job connection component (i.e. when the print process is desired by the user in the

system, the spool file manager (304) issues a print request to the graphic engine (202) and a print command is sent to the printer driver (203) via the dispatcher (301). Once these signals are passed through the system, the print process is executed. Since the spool file manager is used to issue the print request, it can be considered as the print process component. The printing occurs to the combined job that is previewed on the previewer (306) and printed in association with the print setup changed or setup in figure 18; see figs. 9, 16-18; col. 8, lines 20-67 and col. 9, lines 1-67),

wherein the job information designated by a user as to whether or not an original print job corresponding to the respective one of the plurality jobs should be deleted from or retained in the memory (i.e. the system allows the user to enter in information regarding the deletion of a job from the spool file (303), or memory. The deleted job can be an original job that is a target job apart of a combined set of jobs that are deleted; see col. col. 21, ln 12-24).

However, Nakagiri '440 fails to teach wherein the connection information does not comprise real image data but relates to processing image data of the connected job; and a display component that displays the connection information without generating real image data of the connected job.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Nishikawa '046. Nishikawa '046 discloses wherein the connection information does not comprise real image data but relates to processing image data of the connected job (i.e. similar to the system of Nakagiri, the Nishikawa system is able to combine jobs into a print job (same field of endeavor). However, in the system of Nishikawa, figure 20 shows jobs that can

be combined together into one job and this job combination can be considered as connection information. The combined print job files that have been spooled or stored on the system are all processed image data that are to be combined in a connected job once the combination of the jobs occur; see fig. 20; col. 21, line 49 – col. 22, line 58); and

a display component that displays the connection information without generating real image data of the connected job (i.e. in figure 24, the user interface displays a combined job, considered as connection information, without showing the real image data of the combined, or connected, job; see fig. 24; col. 23, lines 6-23).

Therefore, in view of Nishikawa '046, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the feature of wherein the connection information does not comprise real image data but relates to processing image data of the connected job; and a display component that displays the connection information without generating real image data of the connected job in order to show a combined job icon representing a combined job (as stated in Nishikawa '046 col. 23, lines 6-23).

However, the combination of Nakagiri '440 and Nishikawa '046 fails to specifically teach wherein the job connection component includes information designated by a user as to whether or not an original print job corresponding to the respective one of the plurality jobs should be deleted from or retained in the memory when the jobs stored in the memory are selected and generation of the connected job is instructed.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Kato '865. Kato '865 discloses wherein the job connection component includes information designated by a user as to whether or not an original print job corresponding to the respective one of the plurality jobs should be deleted from or retained in the memory when the jobs stored in the memory are selected and generation of the connected job is instructed (i.e. like the systems of Nakagiri and Nishikawa, the Kato system is able to combine jobs together (same field of endeavor). However, in the Kato system, the user is able to prepare and execute (i.e. print) a combined job and then have a deletion instruction sent from the client computer to the server computer to delete a certain job in the combined job after the job execution. For example, the deletion process shown in figure 7 is executed in the step of s104 in figure 6. Therefore, after the user has selected which specific jobs to connect into a combined job, actuated a printing instruction to generate a certain combined job and then entering in a deletion command of deleting a certain job from memory, then the Kato reference deletes the specified job from the deletion command. With the above explanation, it is clear that the Kato reference performs the above feature of the claim language; see figs. 6 and 7; paragraphs [0058]-[0073]).

Therefore, in view of Kato '865, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the features of wherein the job connection component includes information designated by a user as to whether or not an original print job corresponding to the respective one of the plurality jobs should be deleted from or retained in the memory when the jobs stored in the memory are selected and generation of the connected job is instructed, incorporated in the device of

Nakagiri '440, as modified by the features of Nishikawa '046, in order to delete image data from a storage device (as stated in Kato '865 paragraph [0013]).

Re claim 2: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the job connection component stores the connection information and the print setting condition as a connected job in the memory (i.e. the jobs that are combined are stored in association with the print setup that pertains to the combined jobs within the spool file (303); see figs. 1-3, 15 and 18; col. 3, lines 48-67, col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67 and col. 6, lines 1-67, col. 18, lines 17-60).

Re claim 3: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a generation component that generates image data of the connected job based on the image data of the plurality of selected jobs (i.e. in the system, the window of the spool file manager creates a display that generates image data of the combined, or connected, job that is based on the image data of the jobs that are combined and form a single combined job. The combined jobs can also be printed as a combined job; see figs. 9, 16-18; col. 8, lines 20-67 and col. 9, lines 1-67).

Re claim 4: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a deleting component that deletes the plural selected jobs from the memory (i.e. in the system shown in figure 6, when a print end message is detected to be from the despooler (305), in the flow of the figure, the corresponding page description files are deleted from the spool file (303) and the process of figure 6 is ended. Also, when the application program used in the system and the print jobs are being held during the execution of the program, the stored print jobs are deleted once the program is stopped from execution or quitting of the program has occurred. In both examples, files relating to the jobs stored in memory are deleted from the memory; see figs. 6 and 19; col. 13, lines 19-67, col. 14, lines 1-52 and col. 19, lines 17-64).

Re claim 5: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 3 further comprising a deleting editing component that deletes a selected job from the connected job generated by the generation component and stored in the memory (i.e. in the system, a desired target job can be deleted from the combined jobs that are both stored on the spool file (303) and were generated and combined by the spool file manager shown in figures 16 and 18; see figs. 9, 16, 18 and 21; col. 8, lines 20-67, col. 9, lines 1-67, col. 20, lines 54-67 and col. 21, lines 1-34).

Re claim 6: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 3 further comprising an addition editing component that adds a new job to the connected job generated by the generation component and stored in the memory (i.e. in the system, the user can add a print job to an already combined print job. The combined print job has been generated by the spool file manager, considered as the generation component, and has been stored in the spool file (303), considered as the memory since it performs the storage of the combined job; see figs. 5, 9, 16-20; col. 19, lines 17-67 and col. 20, lines 1-53).

Re claim 7: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a storage component that stores the image processing setting for the preset connected job as a common setting (i.e. in the system, the common setups and setups that are changed are stored either in the RAM (102) or the external memory (111). The spool manager (304) checks to determine if the print data can be processed in accordance to the processing setups that are associated with the print data or jobs. When the jobs are combined, some of the setup values of the jobs are changed to common values in place of the individual setups of the jobs and these changed values are stored in the spool file that are associated with the combined jobs. In the above situation, the setup values

may be stored in the spool file to associate a certain job in the combination with a setup file or the common values already predetermined in the system may be used instead to be associated with the combined jobs, which will be stored in the spool file; see figs. 14-21; col. 18, lines 17-67, col. 19, lines 1-67, col. 20, lines 1-67 and col. 21, lines 1-34), wherein the job connection component selects the common setting stored in the storage component as an image processing setting of the connected job (i.e. in the system, for some of the combined jobs, the common settings are stored in the spool file to be associated with the image data and to be used for the processing of the combined job; see figs. 14-21; col. 18, lines 17-67, col. 19, lines 1-67, col. 20, lines 1-67 and col. 21, lines 1-34).

Re claim 8: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the common setting stored in the storage component includes common setting items, which are applied to the plural jobs to be connected (i.e. in the combined job, the common settings stored in the system may be stored in the spool file in order to be applied to the combined jobs once the combination occurs. The common settings that are used for the setup files are used to be applied to some of the combined jobs; see figs. 14-21; col. 18, lines 17-67, col. 19, lines 1-67, col. 20, lines 1-67 and col. 21, lines 1-34).

Re claim 11: Nakagiri '440 discloses an image forming apparatus comprising:

a memory that stores a print job including image data output from an image processing terminal and a print setting condition (i.e. in Nakagiri '440, there are a plurality of devices that store information. The spooler (302) is used to acquire the processing setups associated with the print data, considered as the image data, and stores this information together as a setup file for each job in a spool file (303). The spool file is considered the memory since this save both types of information. The image data and processing setup information can be stored in a memory in the host computer, considered as the image processing terminal, and this information can also be output from the host computer and transmitted to the printer (1500). The same system shown in figure 3 for the host computer can reside in the printer as well; see figs. 1-3; col. 3, lines 48-67, col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67 and col. 6, lines 1-67);

an image processing component that performs predetermined image processing to the print job stored in the memory (i.e. both the spooler and despooler perform image processing to the job stored in the spool file (303). The spooler (302) is used to convert print commands into intermediate codes and output these codes to be stored in a spool file (303). The despooler is used to process the PDFs of the intermediate codes included in the spool file (303), which also includes the processing setup information, and outputs this information to a graphic engine for further processing. These are examples of the components in the host computer that are used to perform image processing to the job stored in the spool file when the print data along with the setup information is entered into the system. The function of performing predetermined image processing is performed by the spooler, which is used to perform the predetermined

function of interpreting the received print command into intermediate codes and outputting this information to a spool file; see figs. 1-3; col. 3, lines 48-67, col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67 and col. 6, lines 1-67);

a print job connection component that sets connection information for connecting plural print jobs and a print setting condition of a connected job by selecting the print jobs stored in the memory and instructing generation of the connected job (i.e. in the system, the user can designate to combine a plurality of print jobs to execute them as a single print job on the window of the spool file manager. This is shown in figures 9, 16 and 18. The spool file manager can be considered as the job connection component since it sets the information for combining, or connecting, a plurality of jobs to one combined job name to be executed as a single job. When viewing figure 18, the figure illustrates the combine setup window, which also performs the latter feature of the job connection component, having the function of being able to set the processing setups of the combined jobs stored in the spool file that are selected and the creation of the combined job that has been instructed through the spool file manager; see figs. 9, 16-18; col. 8, lines 20-67 and col. 9, lines 1-67); and

a print process execution component that executes a print process of the connected job on based on the connection information and the print setting condition set by the print job connection component (i.e. when the print process is desired by the user in the system, the spool file manager (304) issues a print request to the graphic engine (202) and a print command is sent to the printer driver (203) via the dispatcher (301). Once these signals are passed through the system, the print process is executed.

Since the spool file manager is used to issue the print request, it can be considered as the print process component. The printing occurs to the combined job that is previewed on the previewer (306) and printed in association with the print setup changed or setup in figure 18; see figs. 9, 16-18; col. 8, lines 20-67 and col. 9, lines 1-67),

wherein the job information designated by a user as to whether or not an original print job corresponding to the respective one of the plurality jobs should be deleted from or retained in the memory (i.e. the system allows the user to enter in information regarding the deletion of a job from the spool file (303), or memory. The deleted job can be an original job that is a target job apart of a combined set of jobs that are deleted; see col. col. 21, ln 12-24).

However, Nakagiri '440 fails to teach wherein the connection information does not comprise real image data but relates to processing image data of the connected job; and a display component that displays the connection information without generating real image data of the connected job.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Nishikawa '046. Nishikawa '046 discloses wherein the connection information does not comprise real image data but relates to processing image data of the connected job (i.e. in the system of Nishikawa, figure 20 shows jobs that can be combined together into one job and this job combination can be considered as connection information. The combined print job files that have been spooled or stored on the system are all processed image data that are to be combined in a connected job once the combination of the jobs occur; see fig. 20; col. 21, line 49 – col. 22, line 58); and

a display component that displays the connection information without generating real image data of the connected job (i.e. in figure 24, the user interface displays a combined job, considered as connection information, without showing the real image data of the combined, or connected, job; see fig. 24; col. 23, lines 6-23).

Therefore, in view of Nishikawa '046, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the feature of wherein the connection information does not comprise real image data but relates to processing image data of the connected job; and a display component that displays the connection information without generating real image data of the connected job in order to show a combined job icon representing a combined job (as stated in Nishikawa '046 col. 23, lines 6-23).

However, the combination of Nakagiri '440 and Nishikawa '046 fails to specifically teach wherein the job connection component includes information designated by a user as to whether or not an original print job corresponding to the respective one of the plurality jobs should be deleted from or retained in the memory when the jobs stored in the memory are selected and generation of the connected job is instructed.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Kato '865. Kato '865 discloses wherein the job connection component includes information designated by a user as to whether or not an original print job corresponding to the respective one of the plurality jobs should be deleted from or retained in the memory when the jobs stored in the memory are selected and generation of the connected job is instructed (i.e. like the systems of Nakagiri and Nishikawa, the Kato system is able to combine jobs together

(same field of endeavor). However, in the Kato system, the user is able to prepare and execute (i.e. print) a combined job and then have a deletion instruction sent from the client computer to the server computer to delete a certain job in the combined job after the job execution. For example, the deletion process shown in figure 7 is executed in the step of s104 in figure 6. Therefore, after the user has selected which specific jobs to connect into a combined job, actuated a printing instruction to generate a certain combined job and then entering in a deletion command of deleting a certain job from memory, then the Kato reference deletes the specified job from the deletion command. With the above explanation, it is clear that the Kato reference performs the above feature of the claim language; see figs. 6 and 7; paragraphs [0058]-[0073]).

Therefore, in view of Kato '865, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the features of wherein the job connection component includes information designated by a user as to whether or not an original print job corresponding to the respective one of the plurality jobs should be deleted from or retained in the memory when the jobs stored in the memory are selected and generation of the connected job is instructed, incorporated in the device of Nakagiri '440, as modified by the features of Nishikawa '046, in order to delete image data from a storage device (as stated in Kato '865 paragraph [0013]).

Re claim 12: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein the print job connection component stores the connection information and the print setting condition as a connected job in the memory (i.e. the jobs that are combined are stored in association with the print setup that pertains to the combined jobs within the spool file (303); see figs. 1-3, 15 and 18; col. 3, lines 48-67, col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67 and col. 6, lines 1-67, col. 18, lines 17-60).

Re claim 13: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image forming apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a generation component that generates image data of the connected job based on the image data of the plurality of selected print jobs (i.e. in the system, the window of the spool file manager creates a display that generates image data of the combined, or connected, job that is based on the image data of the jobs that are combined and form a single combined job. The combined jobs can also be printed as a combined job; see figs. 9, 16-18; col. 8, lines 20-67 and col. 9, lines 1-67).

Re claim 14: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image forming apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a deleting component that deletes the plurality of selected print jobs from the memory (i.e. in the system shown in figure 6, when a print end message is detected to be from the

despooler (305), in the flow of the figure, the corresponding page description files are deleted from the spool file (303) and the process of figure 6 is ended. Also, when the application program used in the system and the print jobs are being held during the execution of the program, the stored print jobs are deleted once the program is stopped from execution or quitting of the program has occurred. In both examples, files relating to the jobs stored in memory are deleted from the memory; see figs. 6 and 19; col. 13, lines 19-67, col. 14, lines 1-52 and col. 19, lines 17-64).

Re claim 15: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image forming apparatus of claim 13 further comprising a deleting editing component that deletes a selected print job from the connected job generated by the generation component and stored in the memory (i.e. in the system, a desired target job can be deleted from the combined jobs that are both stored on the spool file (303) and were generated and combined by the spool file manager shown in figures 16 and 18; see figs. 9, 16, 18 and 21; col. 8, lines 20-67, col. 9, lines 1-67, col. 20, lines 54-67 and col. 21, lines 1-34).

Re claim 16: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image forming apparatus of claim 13 further comprising an addition editing component that adds a new print job to the connected job generated by

the generation component and stored in the memory (i.e. in the system, the user can add a print job to an already combined print job. The combined print job has been generated by the spool file manager, considered as the generation component, and has been stored in the spool file (303), considered as the memory since it performs the storage of the combined job; see figs. 5, 9, 16-20; col. 19, lines 17-67 and col. 20, lines 1-53).

Re claim 17: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image forming apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a storage component that stores the image processing setting for the preset connected job as a common setting (i.e. in the system, the common setups and setups that are changed are stored either in the RAM (102) or the external memory (111). The spool manager (304) checks to determine if the print data can be processed in accordance to the processing setups that are associated with the print data or jobs. When the jobs are combined, some of the setup values of the jobs are changed to common values in place of the individual setups of the jobs and these changed values are stored in the spool file that are associated with the combined jobs. In the above situation, the setup values may be stored in the spool file to associate a certain job in the combination with a setup file or the common values already predetermined in the system may be used instead to be associated with the combined jobs, which will be stored in the spool file; see figs. 14-21; col. 18, lines 17-67, col. 19, lines 1-67, col. 20, lines 1-67 and col. 21, lines 1-34),

wherein the print job connection component selects the common setting stored in the storage component as an image processing setting of the connected job (i.e. in the system, for some of the combined jobs, the common settings are stored in the spool file to be associated with the image data and to be used for the processing of the combined job; see figs. 14-21; col. 18, lines 17-67, col. 19, lines 1-67, col. 20, lines 1-67 and col. 21, lines 1-34).

Re claim 18: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image forming apparatus of claim 17, wherein the common setting stored in the storage component includes common setting items which are applied to the plural print jobs to be connected (i.e. in the combined job, the common settings stored in the system may be stored in the spool file in order to be applied to the combined jobs once the combination occurs. The common settings that are used for the setup files are used to be applied to some of the combined jobs; see figs. 14-21; col. 18, lines 17-67, col. 19, lines 1-67, col. 20, lines 1-67 and col. 21, lines 1-34).

5. Claims 9, 10, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagiri '440, as modified by Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865, as applied to claims 1 and 11 above, and further in view of Kujirai '566 (USP 6618566).

Re claim 9: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein, the job connection component sets the job as a job to be connected (i.e. in the system, the user can designate to combine a plurality of print jobs to execute them as a single print job on the window of the spool file manager. This is shown in figures 9, 16 and 18. The spool file manager can be considered as the job connection component since it sets the information for combining, or connecting, a plurality of jobs to one combined job name to be executed as a single job. When viewing figure 18, the figure illustrates the combine setup window, which also performs the latter feature of the job connection component, having the function of being able to set the processing setups of the combined jobs stored in the spool file that are selected and the creation of the combined job that has been instructed through the spool file manager; see figs. 9, 16-18; col. 8, lines 20-67 and col. 9, lines 1-67).

However, Nakagiri '440 fails to teach when a password is set for a selected job stored in the memory, and, when a password which coincides with the set password is input.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Kujirai '566. Kujirai '566 discloses when a password is set for a selected job stored in the memory (i.e. the system of Kujirai is similar to the above applied references since it also provides a feature of combining jobs (same field of endeavor). However, the reference of Kujirai allows for a user to set a password for authentication for a job that is stored in the job accounting applications in the system. The job accounting applications in the system are on the client computer and then this application can communicate its stored

information to either a printer with the same application or a server. In either case, a password is set for a selected job that is stored on the client and server or printing device; see col. 3, ln 25- col. 4, ln 24 and col. 7, ln 30 - col. 8, ln 13), and

when a password which coincides with the set password is input (i.e. in the system, when the user enters in a password that is set for a specific job, the user is able to use this job in the processing method desired; see col. 8, ln 50 - col. 11, ln 12).

Therefore, in view of Kujirai '566, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have a password is set for a selected job stored in the memory, and, when a password which coincides with the set password is input incorporated in the device of Nakagiri '440, as modified by the combination of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865, in order to provide a setting for the use/non-use of the job accounting function (as stated in Kujirai '566 col. 2, ln 13-15).

Re claim 10: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046, Kato '865 and Kujirai '566 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image processing apparatus of claim 9, wherein, the job connection component sets the generated connected job (i.e. in the system, the user can designate to combine a plurality of print jobs to execute them as a single print job on the window of the spool file manager. This is shown in figures 9, 16 and 18. The spool file manager can be considered as the job connection component since it sets the information for combining, or connecting, a plurality of jobs to one combined job name to be executed as a single job. When viewing figure 18, the figure illustrates the

combine setup window, which also performs the latter feature of the job connection component, having the function of being able to set the processing setups of the combined jobs stored in the spool file that are selected and the creation of the combined job that has been instructed through the spool file manager; see figs. 9, 16-18; col. 8, lines 20-67 and col. 9, lines 1-67).

However, Nakagiri '440 fails to teach when the selected job includes a job for which a password is set, the job connection component sets a password for the generated connected job.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Kujirai '566. Kujirai '566 discloses when the selected job includes a job for which a password is set (i.e. the system of Kujirai is similar to the above applied references since it also provides a feature of combining jobs (same field of endeavor). However, the reference of Kujirai allows for a user to set a password for authentication for a job that is stored in the job accounting applications in the system. The job accounting applications in the system are on the client computer and then this application can communicate its stored information to either a printer with the same application or a server. In either case, a password is set for a selected job that is stored on the client and server or printing device; see col. 3, ln 25- col. 4, ln 24 and col. 7, ln 30 - col. 8, ln 13),

the job connection component sets a password for the generated connected job (i.e. with the system job accounting occurring on both the client computer and the server device also containing the job accounting function, a job connection component that includes the setting of an association of a job with a password for a job generated, or

created, as a connection job. The information linking the combined job with password information is sent to the server device containing the job accounting feature; see col. 8, ln 50 - col. 11, ln 12).

Therefore, in view of Kujirai '566, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to when the selected job includes a job for which a password is set, the job connection component sets a password for the generated connected job incorporated in the device of Nakagiri '440, as modified by the combination of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865, in order to provide a setting for the use/non-use of the job accounting function (as stated in Kujirai '566 col. 2, ln 13-15).

Re claim 19: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein, the print job connection component sets the print job as a print job to be connected (i.e. in the system, the user can designate to combine a plurality of print jobs to execute them as a single print job on the window of the spool file manager. This is shown in figures 9, 16 and 18. The spool file manager can be considered as the job connection component since it sets the information for combining, or connecting, a plurality of jobs to one combined job name to be executed as a single job. When viewing figure 18, the figure illustrates the combine setup window, which also performs the latter feature of the job connection component, having the function of being able to set the processing setups of the combined jobs stored in the spool file that are selected and the creation of the

combined job that has been instructed through the spool file manager; see figs. 9, 16-18; col. 8, lines 20-67 and col. 9, lines 1-67).

However, Nakagiri '440 fails to teach, when a password is set for a selected print job stored in the memory, and, when a password which coincides with the set password is input.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Kujirai '566. Kujirai '566 discloses when a password is set for a selected job stored in the memory (i.e. the system of Kujirai is similar to the above applied references since it also provides a feature of combining jobs (same field of endeavor). However, the reference of Kujirai allows for a user to set a password for authentication for a job that is stored in the job accounting applications in the system. The job accounting applications in the system are on the client computer and then this application can communicate its stored information to either a printer with the same application or a server. In either case, a password is set for a selected job that is stored on the client and server or printing device; see col. 3, ln 25- col. 4, ln 24 and col. 7, ln 30 - col. 8, ln 13), and

when a password which coincides with the set password is input (i.e. in the system, when the user enters in a password that is set for a specific job, the user is able to use this job in the processing method desired; see col. 8, ln 50 - col. 11, ln 12).

Therefore, in view of Kujirai '566, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have a password is set for a selected job stored in the memory, and, when a password which coincides with the set password is input incorporated in the device of Nakagiri '440, as modified by the combination of

Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865, in order to provide a setting for the use/non-use of the job accounting function (as stated in Kujirai '566 col. 2, ln 13-15).

Re claim 20: The teachings of Nakagiri '440 in view of Nishikawa '046, Kato '865 and Kujirai '566 are disclosed above.

Nakagiri '440 discloses the image forming apparatus of claim 19, wherein, the print job connection component sets a generated connected job (i.e. in the system, the user can designate to combine a plurality of print jobs to execute them as a single print job on the window of the spool file manager. This is shown in figures 9, 16 and 18. The spool file manager can be considered as the job connection component since it sets the information for combining, or connecting, a plurality of jobs to one combined job name to be executed as a single job. When viewing figure 18, the figure illustrates the combine setup window, which also performs the latter feature of the job connection component, having the function of being able to set the processing setups of the combined jobs stored in the spool file that are selected and the creation of the combined job that has been instructed through the spool file manager; see figs. 9, 16-18; col. 8, lines 20-67 and col. 9, lines 1-67).

However, Nakagiri '440 fails to teach when the selected print job includes a print job for which a password is set, the print job connection component sets a password for the generated connected job.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Kujirai '566. Kujirai '566 discloses when the selected job includes a job for which a password is set (i.e. the

system of Kujirai is similar to the above applied references since it also provides a feature of combining jobs (same field of endeavor). However, the reference of Kujirai allows for a user to set a password for authentication for a job that is stored in the job accounting applications in the system. The job accounting applications in the system are on the client computer and then this application can communicate its stored information to either a printer with the same application or a server. In either case, a password is set for a selected job that is stored on the client and server or printing device; see col. 3, ln 25- col. 4, ln 24 and col. 7, ln 30 - col. 8, ln 13),

the job connection component sets a password for the generated connected job (i.e. with the system job accounting occurring on both the client computer and the server device also containing the job accounting function, a job connection component that includes the setting of an association of a job with a password for a job generated, or created, as a connection job. The information linking the combined job with password information is sent to the server device containing the job accounting feature; see col. 8, ln 50 - col. 11, ln 12).

Therefore, in view of Kujirai '566, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to when the selected job includes a job for which a password is set, the job connection component sets a password for the generated connected job incorporated in the device of Nakagiri '440, as modified by the combination of Nishikawa '046 and Kato '865, in order to provide a setting for the use/non-use of the job accounting function (as stated in Kujirai '566 col. 2, ln 13-15).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
7. Moats '378 (US Pub 2004/0088378) discloses a system in which jobs that are designated for printing are stored and then the user is prompted to the storage or deletion of the print job that has been recently printed.
8. Kujirai '707 (USP 7002707) discloses a Printing control method, apparatus and storage medium therefor, and printing system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAD DICKERSON whose telephone number is (571)270-1351. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Thur. 9:00-6:30 Fri. 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571)-272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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